

CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE MINUTES

February 9, 2010

The City Council of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in a conference at 5:35 p.m. in the Municipal Building Conference Room on the 9th day of February, 2010, and notice and agenda of the meeting were posted at the Municipal Building at 201 West Gray, and the Norman Public Library at 225 North Webster 48 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

PRESENT:

Councilmembers Atkins, Butler,
Cubberley, Dillingham, Ezzell, Griffith,
Kovach, Quinn, Mayor Rosenthal

ABSENT:

None

DISCUSSION REGARDING THE RENEWAL OF THE CITY'S OKLAHOMA POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (OPDES) PERMIT FOR THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT.

Mr. Steve Lewis, City Manager, said Staff would be providing a briefing this evening on a proposed change of the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) Wastewater Treatment Plant Permit. He said the design and construction of treatment plants begin with the end result, you begin with the quality of the water that will be discharged and once the discharge permits are established, the treatment plant is designed to meet those standards. He said in the 1950's there were no state or federal regulatory system for the discharge of Wastewater Treatment Plants. State Agencies came forward in the 1970's with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) setting forth Federal discharge standards across the country which varied depending on urban or rural areas. He said the operating permit sets the City's operating conditions and parameters for the water discharged in the South Canadian River both in terms of qualitative as well as quantitative limits. He said these permits are very important because they impact our operating and capital budgets and important to Staff that we always operate within those operating limits because it is a reflection upon the City's environmental stewardship and also an indication of the competency of Staff. When permit requirements are not met over a certain period of time, it subjects the City to fines and penalties.

Mr. Ken Komiske, Director of Utilities, introduced Ralph Arnett, Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent, Steve Hardeman, Lead Supervisor, and Debra Smith, Environmental Services Coordinator, who were all instrumental in the operation of the Wastewater Treatment Plant. He said the Wastewater Treatment Plant operates under a OPDES permit that has to be renewed every five years and ODEQ has primacy that meets or exceeds US EPA criteria. He said the City's permit expires at the end of this month, February, 2010, and ODEQ had been notified 180 days in advance. He said a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study of the Canadian River which was conducted north of Mustang to Purcell. He said the study includes ten entities that discharge into the Canadian River. He said the study went through a Quality Assurance Plan (QAP) which had to be done before any samples could be taken. He said obtaining the sample would be a twelve month process because it required samples when the river was dry and during a heavy flow period.

He said the City is permitted to obtain bi-weekly samples on a 24 hour composite sample

Carbonaceous Biochemical Oxygen Demand (CBOD)	To see how much oxygen CBOD uses as it moves down river
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	Do not want to load up the river with too much
Ammonia	Toxic if there is too much Breaks down into nitrogen which creates too much algae which uses up oxygen
Dissolved Oxygen (DO)	Need to make sure there is enough put back into the river

The new permit

–Fecal Coliform -

Total Residual Chlorine

pH. DO is n ward, and two at-large members to be selected by the Children's Rights Coordinating Commission through a screening process with criteria yet to be designed. He said the CRCC discussed different avenues to solicit volunteers willing to participate such as Vice-Principals and Counselors at the high schools, the Home School Association and some of the other schools in the area, and the Youth Ministers in the area could also be contacted to nominate students. He said the CRCC proposes that the Youth Council only meet during the school year, September to May. He hoped to have everything finalized in order to nominate the first Council by the end of May, allow the members to go through training, and begin meeting in September.

Councilmember Griffith asked Mr. Wares what kind of training the Youth Council would receive. Mr. Wares said the University of Oklahoma Student Association has volunteered to conduct a one-day retreat/orientation.

Councilmember Quinn asked what ideas the CRCC had regarding the selection process. Mr. Wares said an application has been developed and the City would issue a press release and send letters to the high schools to solicit nominations. He said the screening process would look at the nominee's leadership qualities exhibited in the past; why they are interested; what benefits they can bring to the Council; and what they hope to get out of being a member of the Youth Council.

Mayor Rosenthal asked how Tulsa and Oklahoma City implemented their program. He said he had not contacted them but would while the screening criteria is being developed.

Councilmember Dillingham said she hoped there would be enough advance recruitment to allow teachers to identify young people with good leadership skills who might not be in the forefront. She said in some large cities, youth at-risk are selected in some of the leadership roles because they have great ideas. She said she had worked with young people on the junior high level and many of the ones not expected to engage do speak out when they are in the process of learning the difference in policy and law. She said her goal would be to identify as many of these types of students as possible.

Councilmember Quinn said there are many more young people out there than the ones in Tomorrow's Leaders, 4-H, United Way's 4-Real, and Teens Advisory Norman (TAN). He said the youth that participate in these programs should not be excluded but he advocated looking for others that are out there as well. He said sometimes there are kids that thrive in different areas such as being involved in school plays or on the

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debate team and although they might not run for Student Council or be picked for Tomorrow's Leaders, they should not be discounted.

Mr. Wares said his daughter graduated from the Alternative School and there are kids in that setting that could benefit from this program and others could benefit from their point of view as well.

Councilmember Quinn said he thought the Youth Council should be presented with the City Council Agenda and give their opinions about it. He said when the high school boundaries were being established, it was a high school student on the advisory board who provided the solution which was adopted. He said young people have some pretty good ideas and should be given more topics than just the standard ones that youth normally are interested in.

Councilmember Butler concurred and said there are a vast number of young people who might not have seen the leadership abilities in themselves but others see them.

Councilmember Kovach said he would like to see nominees who have potential but might not have realized it yet.

It was the consensus of Council that the CRCC move forward with the development of a Norman Youth Council.

Items submitted for the record

1. City of Norman Council Discussion dated January 12, 2010
2. City of Norman Youth Council Application

Participants in Discussion

1. Mr. Dale Wares, Chairman of the Children's Rights Coordinating Commission

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor